



PARENT

CONNECTION

MEET YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER

Whether I am exploring taxonomy in the Bahamas, or communicating to a class the intricacies of cell division, teaching is my life's dream and education my life's quest.

Two summers ago I had the unique opportunity to catalogue species of animals washed ashore from a hurricane in the Bahamas. When I teach taxonomy in my classroom, students have the unique ability to view hundreds of thousands of species they may have never seen because of my quest to continue my own education. Bringing the real world into the classroom is just one of the ways that I attempt to provide an enriching curriculum with diversified learning strategies for all students.



This year you should expect for your student to spend a majority of their time in laboratory settings. Suzanne Brown, our Biology Specialist, will assist in setting up real world and hands-on lab experiments. Students will participate in a variety of learning environments including Gizmo virtual labs, microscope usage, classification of plants, nature walks, and a student favorite: exploding Diet Coke! I want your student to be an engaged learner who delves deeply into the world of Biology. I am hopeful that every student will be successful in my classroom and that each student finds the opportunity to learn, explore, and expand their knowledge in a supportive, trusting, and safe environment. Here's to a great year!

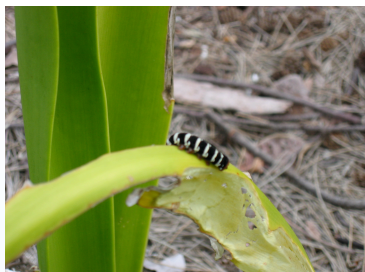


Teacher's Note

Family is always my first priority. Students are an extension of my natural family. Each student in my class is as important to me as my own child. Should you need extra support for your child to be successful, please contact me immediately for help.

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PARENT CONNECTION



Try it at home

As a parent challenge, try to classify the pictures above with your student at home. We will be spending the next four weeks of curriculum on taxonomy and classifying living organisms by their physical properties. Take time out to extend your student's learning with this challenge.

Do you know what your students' grades are? You could with the new online grade books.

This fall, Klein ISD rolled out the new Parent Connect part of Gradespeed software. Three years ago, teachers and administration started the transition from the Chancery Student Management System to the Gradespeed software. Gradespeed offers a variety of parent tools that Chancery did not.

Parents can now have access to student grades at any time. To enroll, visit the Klein ISD homepage and sign up. From <http://KleinISD.net>, select Parent Access, Parent Connection. Fill in the form to request your login and pin number. Within 24 hours you will receive an email with your Parent Connection username and password. Be sure to have your student's social security number, pin number, and

legal name handy when you visit the site for the first time. Parent Connect will request this information to verify your access to records.

Once you receive the email, click the link and log in! Congratulations, you now have access to your students' grades, attendance, and discipline information anytime that you want. I recommend checking before the big date, homecoming, the dance, or any other privilege you might want to revoke!

All that's left to do

now is set your preferences. You can set Parent Connect to notify you when your student is missing work, grades drop below a set point, is tardy to a class, given a discipline referral, or when a teacher adds or updates grades. Notification will be sent by email, so make sure your address is valid. Now sit back and hope the emails don't pour in!



TUTORING SCHEDULE 2009-2010

Teacher Room	De Leon Rm 432	Bickham Rm 414	Thacker Rm 412	Brown Rm 426
Monday	7-7:30am	7-7:30am	2:40-3pm	2:40-3pm
Tuesday	2:40-3pm	7-7:30am	2:40-3pm	5462
Wednesday	2:40-3pm	7-7:30am	2:40-3pm	5611
Thursday	2:40-3pm	7-7:30am	2:40-3pm	5462
Friday	7-7:30am	7-7:30am	2:40-3pm	5462
Test Review (afternoon)	Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday

PARENT CONNECTION

Classroom Focus: Lab safety symbols



<http://sciencespot.net>

Take time out to review these basic safety symbols with your student. 40% of curriculum is laboratory based in high school making safety a top priority. Students are responsible for learning and passing a safety test over safety rules and symbols before they can attend lab. Quiz your student today!

Top Safety Rules to follow:

- No open toed shoes
- Always wear hair pulled back
- Wear your safety goggles
- Immediately notify your teacher anytime there is an accident, minor or not
- Follow all safety rules

Students often times cut corners on safety to appear cool, or because of the nice ring around the eyes safety goggles leave. Please take time to stress the importance of following all safety rules and regulations to your student so we can avoid accidents in the lab this year.



Student Spotlight

This month's student spotlight is on H. Pringle and R. Hubbard. Both H. Pringle and R. Hubbard have been students of mine for two years! They were in my freshman IPC class and this year are students in my Biology class.

H. Pringle and R. Hubbard took time out of their busy Tiger Belle schedule at this year's homecoming game to pose for a picture with their favorite teacher and my daughter. Keep up the good work girls!



PARENT CONNECTION



TAKS or EOC's

There has been a lot of discussion in the past years about TAKS and teaching to the test. Lawmakers, parents, community members, teachers and students have all chosen sides.

But, what will replace TAKS? EOC's or End of Course exams. The No Child Left Behind Act requires that a school district have some way of monitoring student progress. If there is not TAKS testing, then EOC's will have to replace it as a student progress monitor.

What is an EOC?

EOC's are End of Course exams that measure students' learning and progress.

There are a lot of differences from TAKS testing to EOC's.

The main difference is that EOC's are given the same year the course is taken. TAKS exit exams tested two years of material at the end of the second year. EOC's are taken each year at the end of a course of study.

Students don't just pass or fail to graduate. Unlike TAKS, students can still pass to the next grade level if they don't exit or pass the exam. Students just have to show improvement of 5% on their test scores and have a passing average.

Either way, testing won't go away. You decide what you think is best: TAKS or EOC. We might just print your letter in the next issue of Parent Connection.

Tips for Testing

- Plan time to study in advance
- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a good breakfast
- Be prepared

Parent Connection is a monthly publication intended for parents/guardians of students at Klein Collins High School enrolled in Courtney De Leon's Science classes. Please be aware that some information might change due to scheduling and school calendar. Check our website for the most up to date information at <http://classroom.kleinisd.net/webs/cdeleon>.

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Comments and Suggestions:

Any comments, letters, or corrections can be sent to the editor via the school address. Suggestions for content you would like to hear about would be greatly appreciated!

Photos:

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